THOMAS C. STERLING BLAIR STERLING JOHNSON 2 MARTINEZ & LEON GUERRERO A Professional Corporation 3 Suite 1008 Pacific News Building 238 Archbishop F.C. Flores Street Hagatna, Guam 96910-5205 Telephone: (671) 477-7857 DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM 5 Fax: (671) 472-4290 AUG 3 1 2007 4 6 STANLEY L. GIBSON (Cal. Bar No. 047882) GIBSON ROBB & LINDH LLP 100 First Street, 27th Floor 7 JEANNE G. QUINATA San Francisco, CA 94105 Clerk of Court 8 Telephone: (415) 348-6000 Fax: (415) 348-6001 Attorneys for Defendant to 10 Complaint in Intervention, Navigators Insurance Co., dba Navigators Protection & Indemnity 11 12 IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM 13 TERRITORY OF GUAM 14 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Civil Case No.: 06-00011 15 **DEFENDANT NAVIGATORS** Plaintiff, INSURANCE COMPANY'S MOTION TO VS. 16 DISMISS AMENDED COMPLAINT IN MARWAN SHIPPING & TRADING CO.. INTERVENTION OF INCHCAPE 17 SHIPPING SERVICES AND FIVE SEAS SHIPPING CO., LLC, and S.J.) GARGRAVE SYNDICATE 2724, in SUPPORTING MEMORANDUM OF 18 POINTS AND AUTHORITIES personam. 19 **** Defendants. 20 AND CROSS-CLAIMS, NO HEARING REQUESTED COUNTERCLAIMS, AND CLAIM IN 21 INTERVENTION Judge: Honorable Frances Tydingco-Gatewood 22 23 INTRODUCTION I. 24 NAVIGATORS INSURANCE COMPANY ("NAVIGATORS") hereby moves the 25 26 Court to dismiss the Amended Complaint In Intervention of INCHCAPE SHIPPING 27 SERVICES GUAM LLC("ISS") pursuant to FRCP 12(b)(6) on the grounds that the complaint 28 NAVIGATORS' MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS AMENDED COMPLAINTI IN INTERVENTIONAGAINST **NAVIGATORS** Civ. Case No. 06-00011; Our File No. 2900.81

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Amended Complaint In Intervention, p. 10-11, ¶59, 63, 65-66).

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fails to state a claim against NAVIGATORS upon which relief can be granted. All of ISS'

claims against NAVIGATORS seek indemnity for the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial

Port's ("PORT") alleged claim(s) against ISS for damage to its pier. The problem is that the

PORT is not even a party to this action and has made no claims against anyone in this action.

Thus, there are no claims against ISS in this action for which is can seek indemnity. Therefore,

On April 19, 2006, the United States of America (USA) filed this action against

allegedly incurred in August and September 2004 for preventing a pollution incident in Guam

waters involving a vessel, the AJMAN 2 (ISS Amended Complaint In Intervention, p. 3, ¶ 15;

intervened in the USA's action alleging that it was the shipping agent for the AJMAN 2 (ISS

Amended Complaint In Intervention, p. 4, ¶21) and that ISS was being blamed for damage to

PORT property caused by the AJMAN 2. (ISS Amended Complaint In Intervention, p. 4, ¶17).

ISS alleged that the PORT made a written demand against ISS, and threatened to sue ISS to

recover for damage to the PORT's wharf. (ISS Amended Complaint In Intervention, p. 6, ¶¶

29 & 32). ISS then alleged that NAVIGATORS was responsible to pay for the wharf damage

caused by the AJMAN 2 and that ISS was entitled to indemnity from NAVIGATORS for any

liability it had to the PORT, including for responding to the PORT's non-existent suit. (ISS

defendants Marwan Shipping & Trading ("Marwan"), Five Seas Shipping & Trading LLC

("Five Seas") and S.J. Gargrave Syndicate 2724 ("Gargrave") seeking recovery of costs

p.4, ¶17 and 18). ISS was NOT named as a defendant by the USA. Nonetheless, ISS

ISS' Amended Complaint in Intervention against Navigators should be dismissed.

ISS' ALLEGATIONS AGAINST NAVIGATORS

III.

LAW AND ARGUMENT

A. ISS Is Required to Allege Sufficient Facts Entitling it To Relief as a Matter of Law

The purpose of the motion to dismiss is to test the legal sufficiency of the complaint. See, e.g. Niece v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 293 F.Supp. 792 (N.D.Okla. 1968) ("function of a motion to dismiss is to test the law of a claim, not the facts which support it"). The Court's inquiry is limited to whether the allegations in the complaint comprise a legally cognizable claim for relief. See Yuba Consol. Gold Fields v. Kilkeary, 206 F.2d 884, 889 (9th Cir. 1953) ("ruling on a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted is a ruling on a question of law"); Alonzo v. ACF Property Management, Inc., 643 F.2d 578, 579 (9th Cir. 1981) (same). Therefore, if ISS' claims against NAVIGATORS fail as a matter of law, the motion to dismiss should be granted.

In deciding a 12(b)(6) motion, the Court construes the complaint in the light most favorable to the complainant, Parks Sch. of Bus. v. Symington, 51 F.3d 1480, 1484 (9th Cir. 1995), and accepts all allegations of fact as true. Pareto v. F.D.I.C., 139 F.3d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1998). "Nonetheless, conclusory allegations without more are insufficient to defeat a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim." McGlinchy v. Shell Chem. Co., 845 F.2d 802, 810 (9th Cir. 1988); see also Pareto v. F.D.I.C., 139 F.3d at 699 ("conclusory allegations of law and unwarranted inferences are not sufficient to defeat a motion to dismiss"); Anderson v. Clow (In re Stac Elecs. Sec. Litig.), 89 F.3d 1399, 1403 (9th Cir. 1996) (citation omitted) (same). "A court's duty to liberally construe a plaintiff's complaint in the face of a motion to dismiss is not the equivalent of a duty to re-write it for her... we do not think it over burdensome for her to be

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required to allege the factual basis for her claim." <u>Peterson v. Atlanta Hous. Auth.</u>, 998 F.2d 904, 912 (11th Cir. 1993).

B. ISS Has Failed to Allege Any Facts Which Would Require NAVIGATORS to Indemnify ISS in This Action

The USA did not sue ISS. ISS intervened and made claims against NAVIGATORS that relate to non-existent claims against ISS by the PORT in this action. The PORT is not even a party to this action and has made no claims against ISS in this action. Thus, ISS' alleged claims against NAVIGATORS seek indemnity for non-existent claims and should be dismissed.

In a separate action, the PORT has made claims for damage to its wharf, but not against ISS. NAVIGATORS requests the Court take Judicial Notice of the case entitled "JOSE D. LEON GUERRERO COMMERCIAL PORT, et al., v. MARWAN SHIPPING & TRADING COMPANY LLC, SHARJAH, et al.," including the related third party claims, Case no. 07-00010 in the District Court of Guam (hereinafter "PORT Action"). In the PORT Action, the PORT did NOT name ISS as a defendant. ISS injected itself into this case by filing a motion to intervene. As ISS is only seeking indemnification from NAVIGATORS for damages stemming from the PORT's non-existent cause of action against ISS in this action, and there are no facts which would require NAVIGATORS to indemnify ISS against the PORT's hypothetical claim, NAVIGATORS requests that the Court dismiss ISS' complaint against NAVIGATORS.

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1 IV. **CONCLUSION** 2 ISS' Amended Complaint In Intervention fails to state a legally cognizable cause of 3 action against NAVIGATORS and NAVIGATORS respectfully requests that it be dismissed. 4 5 Respectfully submitted, DATED: August 31, 2007 6 Stanley L. Gibson 7 GIBSON ROBB & LINDH LLP 8 **BLAIR STERLING JOHNSON** 9 MARTINEZ & LEON GUERRERO 10 11 12 Thomas C. Sterling Attorneys for Defendant 13 NAVIGATORS INSURANCE CO., d.b.a. 14 Navigators Protection & Indemnity 15 E62\52285-01 G:\WORDDOC\PLD\TCS\334-MTN TO DISMISS AMENDED COMPLAINT RE USA V MARWAN ET AL.DOC 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 NAVIGATORS' MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS AMENDED COMPLAINTI IN INTERVENTIONAGAINST

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